The months of November and December are always a great time to express our gratitude and thanks for all that we have. I am very thankful for the T.E.A.M. spirit and generosity of our Sunny Hills community. Our Thanksgiving Food Drive provided over 1,013 pounds of food and diapers and $260 in cash donations/gift cards for the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank. Our Holiday “Caring Through Sharing” program also provided hundreds of toys/clothing items and $2,600 in gift cards to fill the food bank’s Holiday Shop.

December is often a very busy month, but it’s almost time for our T.E.A.M. to take a “time out” to recuperate. I hope you were able to use your “time out” from school to enjoy the company of family and friends. I am so proud to be a parent of a Sunny Hills’ student, and I hope that you are as well. We have such a great school and team of “coaches” for our students! Thank you to the PTA board, program chairs, and all of our volunteers for giving your time and sharing your talents to benefit our students! Happiest of holidays to you and yours during our winter break/“time out”. Together Everyone Achieves More!

Sincerely,

Kym Clayton
Sunny Hills PTA President 2013-14
“Silent” Fund Raising

There are MANY WAYS to support "Silent" fundraising efforts of critical PTA programs without ANY extra hassle. Here are just a few examples. Don’t forget that many companies also have Matching Funds for your donations. Click HERE for a complete list of our “Silent/Easy Fundraisers” and see how YOU can participate! Every little bit helps!

Microsoft Store: Use this link and earn 5-10% for Sunny Hills PTA
Amazon: Use this link and earn 4-8.5% for Sunny Hills PTA
Safeway: Register through eScrip, use your debit card, and earn 2-4% for Sunny Hills PTA
eScrip: Shop the Online Mall and earn by shopping at your favorite stores, including Nordstrom (5.7%), REI (3%), J. Crew (6%), Sephora (4.2%), and many more!
Target: Use your REDcard and earn 1% for Sunny Hills PTA

Mixed Bags…

Questions? Contact Amy Gathright
It’s not too late to order from Mixed Bags! Mixed Bags is available all year on-line. The products can be viewed/ordered at www.mixedbagdesigns.com. Make sure and put the Sunny Hills ID# 228748.

Matching Funds Reminder

If you made a pledge and/or indicated an employer match during either the Sunny Hills PTA fundraiser at the beginning of the year or the All in for Kids Annual Fund Campaign, please follow through today. The Sunny Hills Matching Funds chair will take care of processing the matching funds forms if you can provide us with your employer information. Questions? Contact Ayana Meissner. Thank you!

PTA Essay Contest for Students!

The Washington State PTA sponsors a statewide essay contest to highlight the efforts of men who are making a difference in the lives of children. This program recognizes the significant and different contribution that men make in children’s lives and their education. All men involved in a youngster’s life - fathers, uncles, grandpas, brothers, step-fathers, mentors, neighbors, pastors and friends - impact the children they care about. The Washington State PTA essay contest - open to any student from kindergarten through 12th grade - explores this vital relationship. For more information or to enter a student’s essay, go here. Postmarked deadline is March 1, 2014.
Reflections Entries

Reflections 2013: "Believe, Dream, Inspire"
We appreciate each student for submitting entries in the PTA Reflections Program. Each submission will be evaluated based on how well the artist interpreted the theme, "Dream, Believe, Inspire" into their work. Twelve pieces moved onto the District PTA level for consideration at the State PTA level in November. All entries will receive a participation prize and be featured in the yearbook! A Big THANK YOU to our Reflections chair, Patty Heavey, and Katie Brown for coordinating this wonderful program for Sunny Hills PTA!

Guest Artist Programs
So many wonderful programs are provided to our school through the generous donations made to PTA by our amazing Sunny Hills families. Thank you to those of you who have already donated to the PTA Pass the Hat fundraiser. One of the ways these PTA donations are put to work is through programs involving visiting artists who teach our children as part of their curriculum. All grade levels benefit from these programs with artists joining their classrooms at various times throughout the year. Here are just a few of the great programs that have impacted student learning so far this year:

- 2nd Grade -- Artist Joslyn Rucker came to enhance science through chalk drawings of the sun and shadows.
- 3rd Grade -- Native American Story Teller, Roger Fernandes, was an integral part of our third graders’ social studies learning.
- 4th Grade -- Artist Carrie Phillips supported the understanding of geometry with her drawing lessons of geometric shapes.
- 5th Grade -- Cartoonist Jeff Johnson worked with our 5th graders to bring to life the concept of a hero.
After School Movie

Our After School Movie on November 6th was a huge success! We had 199 kids participate in this PTA sponsored program. The movie was The Croods and the kids had a great time. A big thank you, to all 35 parent volunteers who made this program possible!

We are hoping to show Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs 2 on Wednesday, Feb 12th, but we are in desperate need of volunteers in order to make that happen! If you’re able to help us out, sign up to volunteer on the PTA website.

~ Jenell Tamaela, Shelby Morton, Trish Prout & Heather Hildebrand

Dancing Through the Decades

On November 15th Sunny Hills students and families enjoyed a fun evening of dancing, games and root beer floats at the annual Dancing through the Decades event! Thanks goes to QFC for donating all of the root beer and ice cream for the floats!

We couldn't have done it without our wonderful volunteers which include Stephanie Mittman, Kristin Monaghan, Brent Kaiser, Pailin Huang, Jeff Menold, Karen Loff, Katie Brown, Carmen Oakley, Kim Haines, Tami Bryan, Megan Olsen, Heather Harris, Sherry Li, Tracy Drake, Kym Clayton, Jaime Crothers, and Shelby Morton.

~ Lori Riskin, Katelyn Shriber & Kavitha Peters, Dancing Through the Decades Dance Chairs
Thanksgiving Food Drive

Our Thanksgiving Food Drive was a great success! Your generous donations provided 1,013 pounds of food and diapers as well as $260 in cash and gift cards for the Issaquah Food Bank. Thank you so much to our generous Sunny Hills families who donated!

A special thank you also to our wonderful volunteers who helped to make it happen: Terri Sanders, Jill Benson, Johanna Range, Amy Linzbach, Heather Duenaz, Shelby Morton, and Marie Hardy.

Our donations helped make the holidays a little brighter for families in our community. Thank you for your support!

- Stacy Jarvis,
  Food Drive Chair

PTA Dollars At Work - New Outside Bulletin Board

Ever wonder what your PTA donation dollars go towards? One example is on display just outside the Sunny Hills Office. Over the Winter Break, a new outside bulletin board was installed.
Staff Appreciation Events

A very warm word of thanks to those who helped our terrific Sunny Hills Staff feel appreciated! October 29th we provided a tasty meal of 3 different warm soups, autumn salad, warm bread and apple crisp a 'la mode! Thanks to Kym Clayton, Heather Duenaz, Katie Brown, Jayne Sievers, Lisa Small, Carmen Oakley, Stacy Jarvis, Sara Ceteznik, Jaime Menold, Kammy Lull, Shannon Holliway and Connie Fortier for their generous contributions to this lunch.

The staff enjoyed an “orange” themed snack during their staff meeting on Nov. 6th when we served carrots with "orange colored" ranch dip, warm artichoke dip with pita chips, Clementine oranges and delicious pumpkin rolls. Thanks to Sara Ceteznik, Katie Brown, Stacy Jarvis, Jayne Sievers, Lisa Small Connie Fortier and Kammy Lull for helping make this possible.

Lastly, on Dec. 10th the staff appreciation committee provided a baked potato bar with all the fixings we could think of accompanied by salad, fruit, and holiday punch. This was followed by the annual cookie exchange where staff was able to sample some treats after lunch and then fill up a box with a couple dozen more treats to take home! We couldn’t have done this without the help from so many of our fantastic Sunny Hills families. Thank you Robin Lamarque, Darawan Morrison, Heather Duenaz, Carmen Oakley, Karen Goo, Sara Ceteznik, Jaime Menold, Tisha Giulini, Jayne Sievers, Kathy Dillon, Heeyong Lee, Laurel Farley, Mary Doyle, Jeff Hu, Karin Roberts, Carinne James, Cara DiCostanzo, Harika Gaddam, Sandy Wengreen, Cami Blumenthal, Wendy Borgert, Kavitha Peters, Jennie Yahn, Ayana Meissner, Alina Singereanu, Jeanette Brownlee, Jen Frederick, Colleen O’Keefe, Katie Brown, Jill Benson, Julie Webster, Adriana Aguirre, Mary Jilek, Kym Clayton, Echo Chernik, Jennie Yann, Julie Horng, Connie Fortier, Laura Baker, Sandy Wengreen, Shannon Holliway, Jennifer Dorrance, Melissa Diaz, Amy Linzbach, Sai, and Adrianna Aguirre and any one we might have missed who dropped off a few dozen cookies!

Thanks for all you do!

~ Stephanie Shipley & Alison Tobey,
Staff Appreciation Co-chairs
Holiday Gift Program

On behalf of the entire community, **THANK YOU** for your very generous donations to the Caring through Sharing Holiday Gift Program! Through your support, we collected hundreds of clothing and toy items and over $2,600 in cash and gift cards to help the Issaquah Food Bank fill their "Holiday Shop". This year there are over 1,200 children registered for this program. Programs like this are an essential part of a strong community and made possible by great folks like you.

In addition, it takes a great team of people to make programs like this happen. A special thanks goes out to **Shawna Borichewski, Lindsey Hatch, Stacy Jarvis, Wendy Kastner, Jaime Menold, Stephanie Mittmann, Gina Pijpker and Martha Glisky Roorda** for all you did to make this year a success.

- Amy Linzbach and Johanna Range, Caring Through Sharing Holiday Gift Chairs
Issaquah Schools Foundation

We are grateful and proud to work with such a wonderful parent community. Your generosity in 2013 helped high school students START STRONG, boost writing skills of every elementary student by assisting the District with a Writing Curriculum Adoption and fill our middle and high school band rooms with more than 120 new instruments. We could go on and on, but we believe our kids say it best …

*Dear Issaquah Schools Foundation donor,*

*I want to thank you for sharing and giving to the community; ensuring that our futures are bright and successful. I promise that your money will not go to waste. People like you are the reason why our schools can afford to provide the best quality education they can.‖* Alex F.

Thank you for giving every student at every school the resources to discover, develop and achieve the promise of their academic potential. May you and your family enjoy all the wonder and joy of the season.

**All in for Kids Pledge Reminder**

Thank you community for your amazing response to the **All in for Kids** Annual Fund Campaign. You contributed **$412,000** in support of our students and schools. If you haven’t yet gone ‘All In’ it’s not too late to do so. Donate today at [isfdn.org](http://isfdn.org).

If you made a pledge and/or indicated an employer match during the **All in for Kids** Annual Fund Campaign, please follow through today. Respond to your pledge remit letter and fill out any required matching gift forms. You’ll help keep our overhead costs low. Thank you!

**VOICE Mentor program**

Did you know that you can change one life by giving one hour of your time, once a week to a student in need? That’s all it takes to become a Volunteers Of Issaquah Changing Education (VOICE) Mentor. Whatever your talent—reading, math, sciences, working with ELL students or being a supportive friend and confidant —there’s a student who will benefit from your contribution. In honor of National Mentoring Month, please take 30 seconds to view the video below and consider becoming a VOICE Mentor. You’ll transform two lives … a student’s and your own. **VOICE Mentor Program**, [VOICE@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:VOICE@issaquah.wednet.edu) or [http://voicementorprogram.org/](http://voicementorprogram.org/).
Volunteers for Issaquah Schools (VIS)

Levies
Issaquah School District is running 3 very important levies in February. Please take a moment to click on the VIS Website to educate yourself on the impact these will have on the students and staff of Issaquah.

VIS Website (www.visvote.org <http://www.visvote.org> )
You can endorse the levies and download:
- Endorsement form
- Flyer that explains who VIS (Volunteers for Issaquah Schools) is
- VIS Vote Yes 3 Times flyer
- District Fact Sheet

Have you been talking to your friends and neighbors about the upcoming three levies on Feb 11th? A great way to let everyone know YOU are voting YES, is to join us on Jan. 30th and Feb. 10 for a honk and wave at the corner of Issaquah Pine Lake Rd. and 228th. Sign up below or last minute volunteers are always welcome.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Asw4I0HifcaBdFp1SHdtQmtEZnZnZXRIQlRpaW5mdHc&usp=sharing

Car Magnets Are Here!
Maybe you have seen the little yellow school buses on the back of cars. If you would like to show your support of the upcoming levies and would like a magnet please contact Dana Rundle danarundle@hotmail.com.
PTA Essay Contest for Students!

This program recognizes the significant and different contribution that men make in children’s lives and their education. All men involved in a youngster’s life - fathers, uncles, grandpas, brothers, step-fathers, mentors, neighbors, pastors and friends - impact the children they care about. Washington State PTA sponsors a statewide essay contest - open to any student from kindergarten through 12th grade - to explore this vital relationship. For more information or to enter a student’s essay, go here. Postmarked deadline is March 1, 2014.

Sunny Hills Recognition

Do you know of a teacher, staff member, or parent that really goes above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of kids. Want to help recognize that person? PTA is looking for volunteers to join the recognition committee to help acknowledge these individuals. Nominations for the actual awards will be coming soon. Contact danarundle@hotmail.com if you are interested.

Advocacy Training

This is a great event sponsored by the League of Education Voters. This year, the training will take place on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the nearby Puget Sound Educational Service District, 800 Oakesdale Ave. SW, Renton, WA 98057. This event goes in depth to prepare/educate you about educational issues that will be prominent in the upcoming legislative session, and several key legislators are always on hand to help lead sessions and talk to participants about education policy. The event also showcases innovative programs in school districts across the state (about things like discipline, parent engagement, teacher evaluations, etc.) and gives great ideas for you to take home to your local school. The event runs from 9am-4pm, and we will arrange carpools for anyone who needs a ride.

To sign up, go to: http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/5892/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=422396

Focus Day in Olympia

This fun event will take place on Tuesday, February 4, and we will have a bus to take people to Olympia and back (with an anticipated return in time to meet your kiddies at their bus stop). We will meet legislators and learn the latest news about the ongoing legislative session. Please contact danarundle@hotmail.com if you are interested, as we need to know how many people we will have on the bus.
January Calendar

Jan 9th  Eager Reader Begins  (Jan 9th – Feb 27th)
Jan 25th  Advocacy Training in Renton (sponsored by League of Education Voters)
Jan 30th  Honk & Wave for Education Levies (corner of Iss Pine Lake Rd & 228th)

February Calendar

Feb 4th  Focus Day in Olympia  (10am-2pm)
Feb 10th  Honk & Wave for Education Levies
Feb 11th  Kindergarten Roundup
Feb 12th  After School Movie - Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs 2 (12:45-2:30pm)
          Only if have enough volunteers... Sign up here-> PTA - Movie Volunteers
Feb 14th  Valentine’s Day
Feb 17th-21st  Second Winter Break